IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **cancel claims 2, 9, 10, and 18, and amend claims 1, 11, 12, 14, and 20** as follows:

1. (*Currently amended*) An image processing method, comprising:

warping an initial line pattern based upon pixel values of the original image and a comparison of original image pixel values and warped line pixel values to produce a warped line pattern; and

producing an engraving-style halftone image by mapping an original image onto the warped line pattern.

2. (*Cancelled*)

3. (*Original*) The method of claim **1**, wherein the initial line pattern is oriented substantially along an initial direction and the initial line pattern is warped in a direction substantially orthogonal to the initial direction.

4. (*Original*) The method of claim **1**, wherein the initial line pattern is warped based upon a density map extracted from pixel values of the original image.

5. (*Original*) The method of claim **4**, further comprising producing a density map by sampling pixel values of the original image.

6. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial line pattern is warped based upon gradient information computed from pixel values of the original image.

7. (*Original*) The method of claim 6, further comprising computing gradient information for a pixel location based upon a weighted averaging of gradient information computed from neighboring pixel values.

8. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial line pattern is based upon a set of displacement values computed for pixel locations along each line of the initial line pattern.

9. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial line pattern is warped by inserting or removing one or more lines between adjacent lines of the initial line pattern.

10. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the original image is mapped onto the warped line pattern based upon a comparison of original image pixel values and warped line pixel values.

11. (*Currently amended*) The method of claim [[10]] 1, wherein the original image is mapped onto the warped line pattern by producing black pixel values of the engraving-style image at pixel locations where original image pixel values are less than

corresponding warped line pattern pixel values, and producing white pixel values of the engraving-style image at pixel locations where original pixel values are greater than or equal to corresponding warped line pattern pixel values.

12. (*Currently amended*) An image processing system, comprising a processor programmed to warp an initial line pattern based upon pixel values of the original image and a comparison of original image pixel values and warped line pixel values to produce a warped line pattern, and to map an original image onto the warped line pattern to produce an engraving-style halftone image.

13. (*Original*) The system of claim **12**, wherein the initial line pattern is warped based upon a density map extracted from pixel values of the original image.

14. (*Currently amended*) The system of claim **[[13]] 12**, wherein the processor is programmed to produce a density map extracted from pixel values of the original image.

15. (*Original*) The system of claim **12**, wherein the initial line pattern is warped based upon gradient information computed from pixel values of the original image.

16. (*Original*) The system of claim **12**, wherein the processor is programmed to compute gradient information for a pixel location

based upon a weighted averaging of gradient information computed from neighboring pixel values.

17. (*Original*) The system of claim **12**, wherein the initial line pattern is based upon a set of displacement values computed for pixel locations along each line of the initial line pattern.

18. (*Cancelled*)

19. (*Original*) The system of claim **12**, wherein the original image is mapped onto the warped line pattern by producing black pixel values of the engraving-style image at pixel locations where original image pixel values are less than corresponding warped line pattern pixel values, and producing white pixel values of the engraving-style image at pixel locations where original pixel values are greater than or equal to corresponding warped line pattern pixel values.

20. (*Currently amended*) A computer-readable medium carrying instruct-tions for:

warping an initial line pattern based upon pixel values of the original image and a comparison of original image pixel values and warped line pixel values to produce a warped line pattern; and

mapping an original image onto the warped lie pattern to produce an engraving-style halftone image.